

Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site Acquisition and Expansion Finding of No Significant Impact

Environmental Assessment Number OR-080-01-12

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (See attached Environmental Assessment Number OR-080-01-12) for a proposal to acquire a 17.74-acre parcel of land adjacent to Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site in the North Santiam Watershed. The project is located in T.9S., R2E. Section 25. The objective of the proposal is to expand Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site.

Implementation of the proposed action would conform to management actions and direction contained in the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP), dated May 1995, which is tiered to and incorporates the analysis contained in the *Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan /Final Environmental Impact Statement* (RMP/FEIS), dated September 1994. The ROD/RMP provides a comprehensive ecosystem management strategy in conformance with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (February 1994) and the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994).

The environmental assessment (EA) is attached to and incorporated by reference in this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination. The EA and FONSI will be made available for public review from **June 4, 2001 to June 20, 2001**.

The notice for public comment will be published in a legal notice by local newspapers of general circulation including the *Oregonian*, the *Statesman Journal*, the *Stayton Mail*, and the *Mill City Independent Press*. The FONSI and EA will also be sent to potentially affected or interested individuals, organizations, and agencies and posted on the Internet at **<http://www.or.blm.gov/salem/html/planning/index.htm>**.

Comments received in the Salem District Office **on or before June 20, 2001 at 4:00 PM, Pacific Daylight Saving Time**, will be considered in the final decision which is expected to be issued by **June 26, 2001**.

Based upon review of the EA and supporting documents, I have determined that the proposed action (Alternative A) is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This finding is based on the following discussion:

Context: The proposed action is for the United States, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to purchase the fee title (surface and mineral estates) for a 17.74-acre parcel of private land adjacent to Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site for the appraised fair market value from Frank Trucking, Inc.. The appraisal is currently being updated and the value of the parcel is expected to be between \$220,000 and \$250,000. Funding for the acquisition of the Offered Lands would be obtained from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Should the Offered Lands become the property of the United States, the parcel would be managed by the BLM as part of Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site, until the parcel could be formally annexed to Fishermen Bend as part of a Salem District RMP amendment. The parcel would not be open to mineral entry. Primary management emphasis for the parcel would be the enhancement recreational and aesthetic values, while protecting any sensitive fish, wildlife, plant or cultural resources.

An overall master management plan would be developed for both Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site and the acquired parcel. Both recreational development and resource restoration opportunities for the acquired parcel would be considered in the plan.

The EA details the effects of the proposed action. None of the effects identified, including direct, indirect and cumulative effects, are considered to be significant and do not exceed those effects described in the RMP/FEIS.

Intensity: The following discussion is organized around the "Ten Significance Criteria" described in 40 CFR 1508.27.

- 1. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse.** The predicted environmental effects on the six relevant elements of the environment (e.g., recreation/visuals, soils/minerals, wildlife, vegetation, water/fisheries/riparian, and socio-economics) are considered to be beneficial for the public at large because the acquisition will provide the opportunities to enhance recreational activities offered by Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site (See EA, page 7). The acquisition would also increase the amount of riparian area in public ownership along the North Santiam River, which has several sensitive fish species (See EA, page 8). None of the environmental effects disclosed above and discussed in the EA are considered significant.

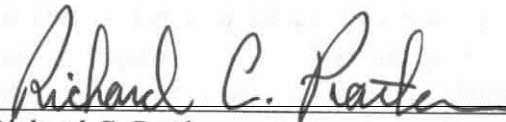
- 2. The degree to which the selected alternative will affect public health or safety.**

Acquiring the parcel could potentially improve public health and safety, by allowing the BLM to better manage incompatible uses such as target shooting now occurring (See EA page 7).

3. **Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.** There are no historic or cultural resources, park lands, or prime farm lands, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or wildernesses that would be affected by the proposed action. The proposed acquisition is along a segment of the North Santiam River which has been found to be eligible for designation as a National Wild and Scenic River (See EA, pages 6 and 7). Portions of the proposed acquisition would be located within the Riparian Reserve land use allocation, and management of that area would not retard or prevent the attainment of the ACS objectives (See EA page 8 and Appendix C).
4. **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** The predicted effects are not highly controversial. A complete disclosure of the predicted effects of the proposed action is contained in the EA.
5. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** There are no predicted effects on the human environment which are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.
6. **The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** The proposed action does not set a precedent for future actions that may have significant effects nor does it represent a decision in principle about future consideration.
7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.** The interdisciplinary team conducted a cumulative effects analysis and no cumulative effects were predicted. A complete disclosure of the effects of the proposed action is contained in the EA on pages 7-9 and in Appendix B.
8. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.** The proposed action will not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor will the proposed action cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources (See EA, Appendix B).
9. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered**

9. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.** The proposed action will have a beneficial affect on threatened fish species and its habitat. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service were consulted with as part of the original exchange proposal and no issues associated with the acquisition of the parcel were identified.
10. **Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.** The proposed action does not violate any known Federal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. State, local, and tribal interests were given the opportunity to participate in the environmental analysis process. Additionally, the proposed action is consistent with applicable land management plans, policies, and programs.

Approved by:



Richard C. Prather
Cascades Field Manager

23 MAY 01
Date

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site Acquisition and Expansion

Environmental Assessment No. OR-080-01-12

March 7, 2001

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office
Salem District Office
Cascades Resource Area
Marion County, Oregon

Responsible Agency: USDI - Bureau of Land Management

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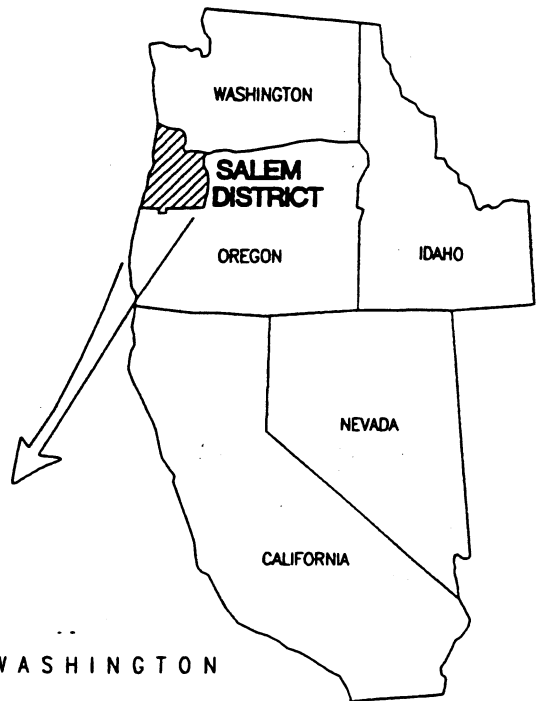
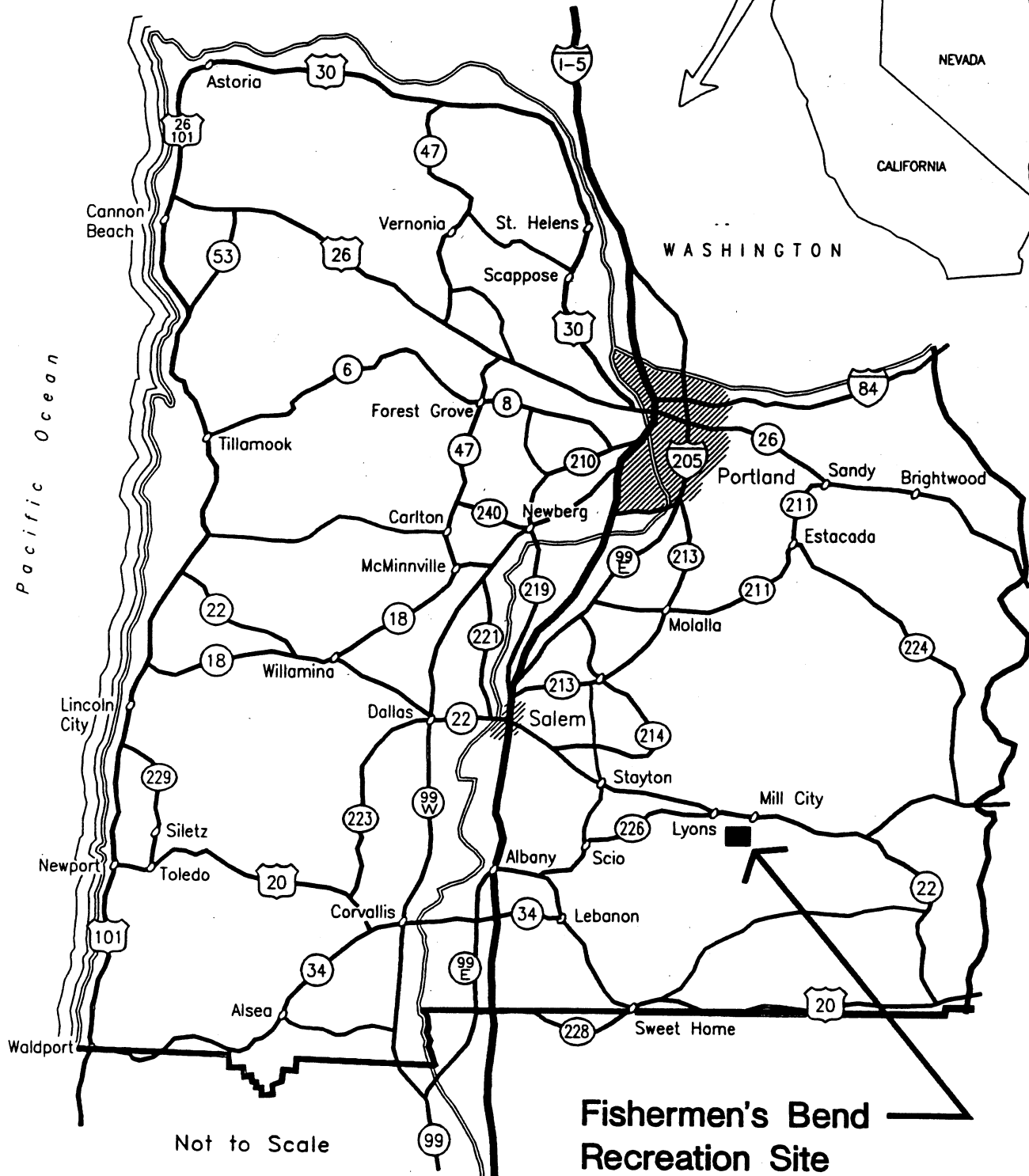
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Salem, OR 97306
(503) 315-5908

Abstract: This environmental assessment discloses the predicted environmental effects of one action alternative and one no action alternative for land located in Section 25 of Township 9 South, Range 2 East, Willamette Meridian. The proposed action is to purchase a 17.74-acre parcel directly adjacent to Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site. The proposal would meet the Land Tenure Adjustment Criteria for resource opportunities related to land acquisition; and would meet the following objectives identified in the Salem District RMP (page 55 and Appendix H): enhancing developed recreation sites, public access for recreation opportunities, riparian areas and wetlands, fish habitat, and threatened or endangered species habitat.

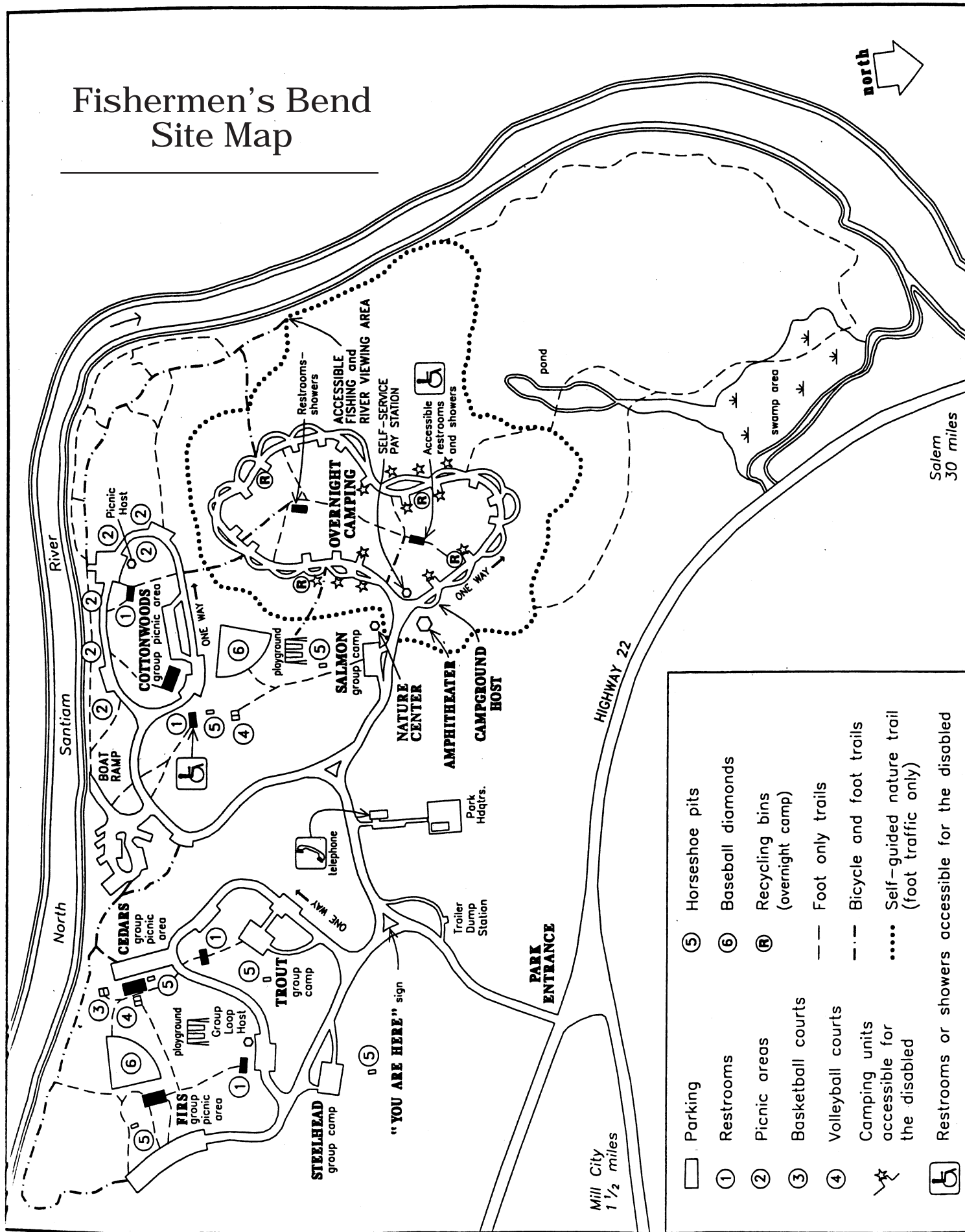
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON

Vicinity Map



Fishermen's Bend Site Map



	Parking		Horseshoe pits
	Restrooms		Baseball diamonds
	Picnic areas		Recycling bins (overnight camp)
	Basketball courts	---	Foot only trails
	Volleyball courts	- - -	Bicycle and foot trails
	Camping units accessible for the disabled	Self-guided nature trail (foot traffic only)
	Restrooms or showers accessible for the disabled		

Offered Lands Map

SURVEY FOR FRANK TRUCKING, INC.
IN SECTION 25, T. 9 S., R. 2 E., W.M.
MARION COUNTY, OREGON.

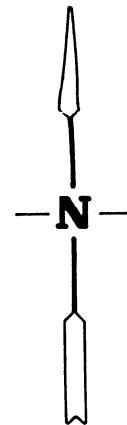
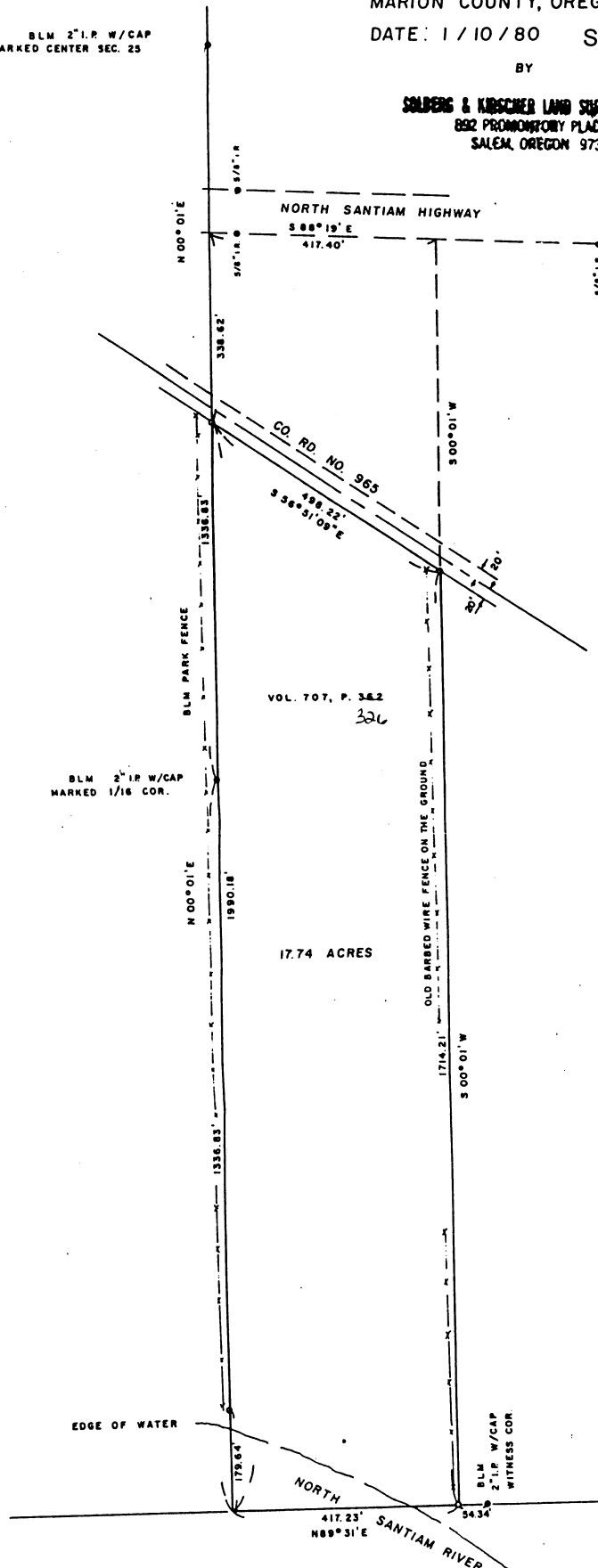
DATE: 1/10/80 Scale: 1" = 300'

BY

SOLBERG & KIRSCHER LAND SURVEYORS, INC.
892 PROMONTORY PLACE S.E.
SALEM, OREGON 97302



BLM 2" I.P. W/CAP
MARKED CENTER SEC. 25



- = MONUMENT FOUND
- o = 5/8 inch IRON ROD SET

NOTE: STEEL FENCE POSTS SET
THE EAST LINE & WEST

25 | 30
36 | 31

Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site and Proposed Parcel for Acquisition

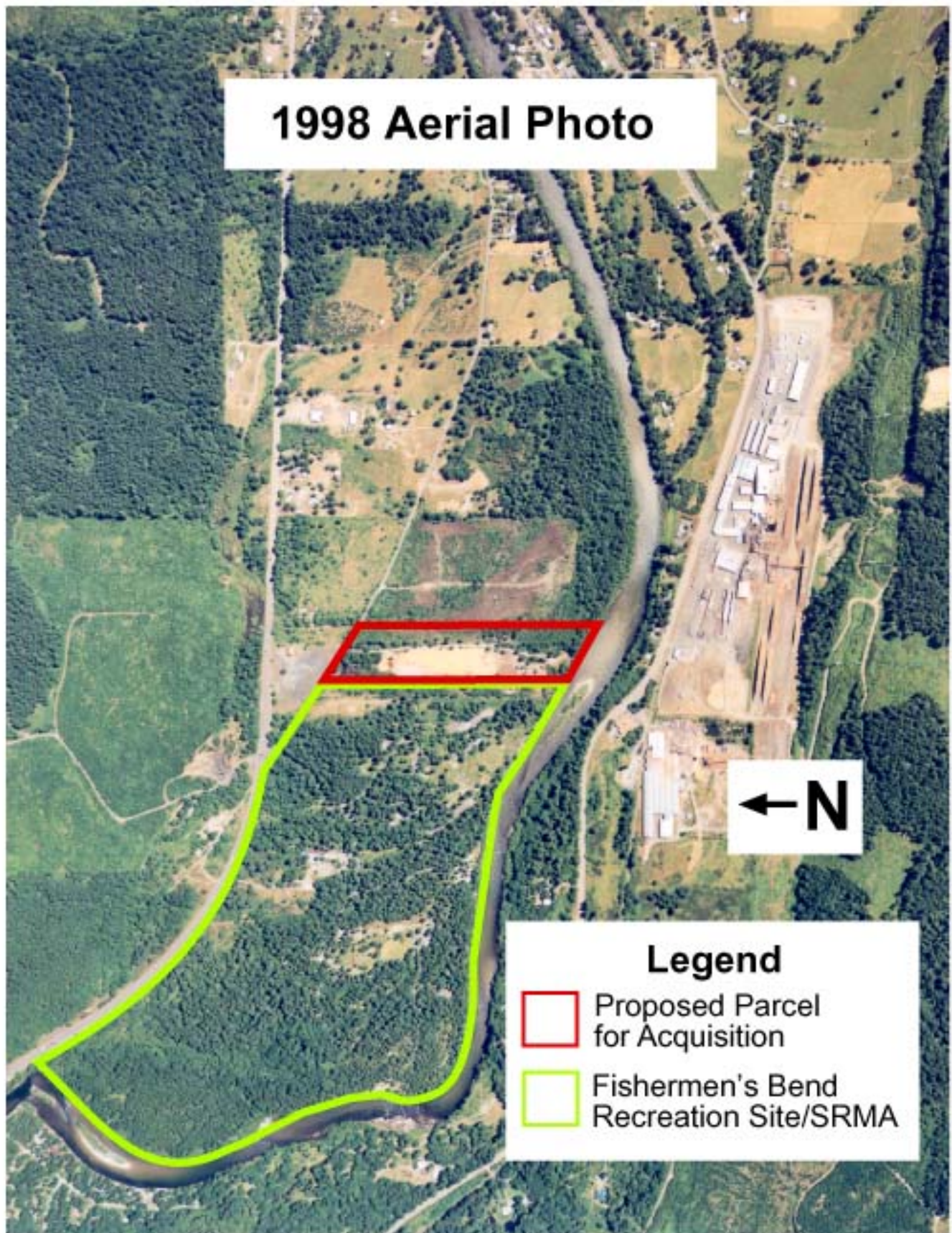


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Introduction

Background

Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site/Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) is one of the largest overnight and day-use facilities the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages. Located along the North Santiam River in T. 9 S., R. 2 E., Section 25, Willamette Meridian (See Vicinity Map) and close to large urban areas such as Portland and Salem, Fishermen's Bend is within two hours of almost two-thirds of Oregon's population. This makes Fishermen's Bend a very popular site with over 30,000 visits annually. Fishermen's Bend provides group and family overnight camping, group and family day use, cabins, athletic fields, volleyball courts, an amphitheater, and a nature center with accessible nature and river access trails (See Fishermen's Bend Site Map). A non-profit group also uses the site for a variety of science-based education programs for school children.

In 1997 the Cascades Resource Area began developing a management plan for Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site/SRMA. Shortly after beginning the planning process on April 1, 1997 the BLM received a letter from the owner of a 17.74-acre parcel (See Offered Lands map) adjacent to Fishermen's Bend (See Aerial Photo) proposing an exchange. The merit of the proposal and consistency with guidance in the Salem District Resource Management Plan (RMP) were evaluated by district staff. The proposal was found to be of public benefit and consistent with the Recreation and Land Tenure Management Objectives in the Salem District RMP (pages 41, 55 and Appendix H). Given that the acquisition of the parcel could significantly affect the management plan for the park, the planning process was put on hold until a final decision was made regarding the acquisition of the parcel. Since that time numerous proposals for BLM exchange options and parcels have been explored. However, due to the small size of the parcel, the relatively small overall value of the transaction and the growing constraints on exchanges, no viable proposals could be identified. In October of 2000, the landowner indicated that the parcel would be put up for sale within 90 days if some agreement could not be reached. In an effort to provide one last alternative, the BLM contacted the landowner about the potential of a direct purchase based on an appraised fair market value. The landowner agreed to consider a purchase option if funding could be obtained. In response, the Salem District is preparing this environment assessment to address the benefits of purchasing the property and the potential effects associated with either purchasing the property or leaving it in private ownership.

Purpose and Need

Both the urban and rural communities near Fishermen's Bend Recreation Sites are growing, resulting in an increasing demand for convenient outdoor recreational opportunities. The North Santiam River is a popular recreational feature, however public land ownership and access is relative limited on the segment below Big Cliff Dam, near Detroit, Oregon. Acquiring land directly adjacent to Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site, provides a unique opportunity to meet growing recreation demand and enhance the recreational opportunities that Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site offers.

Proposed Action Summary

This proposed action is to purchase a 17.74-acre parcel directly adjacent to Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site.

Location

The project is located in the North Santiam watershed along the North Santiam River approximately 30 miles east of Salem, Oregon (See Vicinity Map).

Legal Description of Offered Lands (Frank Trucking Inc. to BLM)

<u>Parcel</u>	<u>Tsp.</u>	<u>Rng.</u>	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Subdivision</u>	<u>Acres</u>
A	9 S.	2 E.	25	Lot 1300	17.74

Conformance with Land Use Planning and Guidance

The Proposed Action would be in compliance with or contribute to meeting the following goals and objectives identified in the BLM's National Strategic Plan (FY 2000 - 2005) and the Salem District Resource Management Plan (RMP - May, 1995).

BLM's National Strategic Plan for FY 2000- FY 2005: Department of Interior Goal 1.0 calls for "Serving Current and Future Publics" and meeting the recreation demand of growing populations. The BLM's Mission Goal 01.01 calls for "Providing opportunities for environmentally responsible recreation." This goal recognizes the growing demand for recreation opportunities and the importance of maintaining the health and diversity of the land. Goal 01.01 also calls for the Management of off-highway vehicle use in a manner that ensures resource protection, visitor safety and minimizes visitor conflict.

Salem District Recreation Management Objectives: The Salem District RMP Recreation Management Objectives (RMP, page 41) state that the Salem District will:

- "Manage special and extensive recreation management areas in a manner consistent with BLM Recreation 2000: A Strategic Plan and Oregon Washington public lands recreation initiative. Recreation 2000 echoes many of the objectives stated above and further states that "The BLM will enhance recreational opportunities through land ownership adjustments, increased and improved access, and other adjustments."

- "Provide a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that contribute to meeting projected recreation demand within the planning area."

- *“Manage scenic, natural, and cultural resources to enhance visitor recreation experiences, and satisfy public land users.”*
- *“Support locally sponsored tourism initiatives and community economic strategies by providing recreation projects and programs with both short and long-term benefits.”*
- *“Continue to provide non-motorized recreation opportunities (hiking, biking, etc.) and create additional opportunities where consistent with other management objectives.”*

Salem District Land Tenure Objectives: The Salem District RMP (page 55 and Appendix H) identifies Land Tenure Adjustment Criteria for resource opportunities related to land acquisition. The proposed acquisition is not specifically identified in the RMP, but does meet the acquisition criteria for enhancing developed recreation sites, public access for recreation opportunities, riparian areas and wetlands, fish habitat, and threatened or endangered species habitat.

Decisions to Be Made

Dick Prather, Cascades Resource Area Field Manager, is the official responsible for deciding whether or not to prepare an environmental impact statement, and whether to approve the purchase of the parcel as proposed, not at all, or to some other extent.

Scoping

As part of the original exchange proposal, adjacent and nearby landowners of the Offered and Selected lands were contacted. On July 15, 1999, an “Invitation to Comment on the Assessment of Environmental Effects . . .” was mailed to adjoining land owners of both Offered and Selected Lands. News articles and public notices about the exchange were published in local newspapers soon thereafter. A thirty day comment period, ending August 31, 1999 generated two letters and one phone call (See Appendix A).

Comment 1: Stanley Addison (phone call received on May 13, 1999) received information on the potential for an exchange from the exchange proponent. He requested information on the possibility of obtaining an easement or right-of-way to access to his property which is adjacent to the Offered Lands. He was informed that the BLM would be willing to consider his request as part of the Fishermen’s Bend Recreation Site Master Plan, should the acquisition be completed.

Comment 2: Joseph D. Beemer, Trustee of Beemer, Johnson, Smith & Co., PST (letter received July 22, 1999) also requested information on the possibility of obtaining an easement or right-of-way to access the North Santiam River from their property which is adjacent to the Offered Lands. He was given the same information as Mr. Addison. The letter also indicated support for the acquisition of the parcel by the BLM.

Comment 3: Robert Freres, Jr., Vice President of Freres Lumber Co., Inc (letter received August 2, 1999) expressed concern about the use of the BLM-administered parcel that was originally identified as the Selected Land in the exchange. No objections to the BLM acquiring the Offered

Lands were expressed, however, he did indicate Freres Lumber Co.'s interest in acquiring the BLM-administered parcel for the Selected Lands since they are the adjacent landowner to the parcel. The Proposed Action would address Mr. Freres' concern, since the Offered Lands would be purchased rather than acquired through exchange.

Issues

No significant issues were identified as a result of scoping input by the public or the interdisciplinary team (See List of Preparers and Appendix A).

Authority

The authority for the proposed land purchase is in Section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716) as amended.

Description of Alternatives

Alternative A: Proposed Action

The proposed action is for the United States (BLM) to purchase the fee title (surface and mineral estates) for a 17.74-acre parcel of private land adjacent to Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site for the appraised fair market value from Frank Trucking, Inc. The appraisal is currently being updated and the value of the parcel is expected to be between \$220,000 and \$250,000. Funding for the acquisition of the Offered Lands would be obtained from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Should the Offered Lands become the property of the United States, the parcel would be managed by the BLM as part of Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site, until the parcel could be formally annexed to Fishermen Bend as part of a Salem District RMP amendment. The parcel would not be open to mineral entry. Primary management emphasis for the parcel would be the enhancement recreational and aesthetic values, while protecting any sensitive fish, wildlife, plant or cultural resources.

An overall master management plan would be developed for both Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site and the acquired parcel. Both recreational development and resource restoration opportunities for the acquired parcel would be considered in the plan.

Alternative B: No Action

Under the "no action" Alternative B, the Offered Lands would not be acquired and would most likely remain in private ownership. The current owner has indicated that they intend to sell the parcel should the BLM decide not to purchase it.

Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed

The acquisition of the Offered Lands was originally proposed and evaluated as an exchange. Several potential BLM-administered parcels were identified for exchange, however, a parcel of equal value that met the needs of the exchange proponent could not be identified.

Description of Affected Environment

This section describes the major elements of the environment for the Offered lands. Appendix B also contains a summary of elements which have been considered, including those which are not likely to be affected by this proposal, but which the BLM is required by law or policy to consider.

Offered Lands:

General Setting: The Offered Lands consists of one 17.74-acre parcel located one mile west of Mill City, Oregon in Marion County. The parcel is located along the North Santiam River, adjacent to the eastern boundary of Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site. Elevation of the parcel is approximately 750 feet and the average annual precipitation is 70 inches. It is accessed by River Road, a county road. A single lane gravel road extends from River Road along the parcel's western boundary to the North Santiam River. The parcel is currently zoned as Timber Conservation by Marion County. The purpose of this zone is "to conserve forest lands by maintaining the forest land base and to protect the forest economy by making possible economically efficient forest practices that assure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species as the leading use on forest land consistent with sound management of soil, air, water, and fish and wildlife resources and to provide for recreational opportunities and agriculture....." The parcel is near rural residential and light industrial sites activities and a variance for development of the parcel could most likely be obtained. The parcel has been used for the storage of sawdust and gravel, however the majority of the sawdust and gravel have been removed. A hazardous materials environmental site assessment was completed, and no significant concerns were identified.

Recreation/Visuals: The proposed purchase of a 17.74-acre parcel, provides a unique opportunity to meet growing recreation demand and enhance the recreational opportunities that Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site offers. The parcel is relatively flat and open, with river frontage along the North Santiam River. The parcel also has easy access that could be maintained separately from the park entrance. This offers development opportunities for year-round non-motorized boat access, bicycle trails and hiking trails developed without the expense or security concerns associated with keeping the rest of the park open. The need for these year-round opportunities has been expressed by park users and the local communities near Fishermen's Bend for several years. A small pond on the parcel also offers educational opportunities about wetlands and waterfowl. Other opportunities would be explored as part of long term planning for the Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site. This parcel represents the only acquisition and expansion opportunity directly adjacent to Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site, because the park is surrounded by the North Santiam River and State Highway 22 on all other boundaries.

The parcel is also located along a 20-mile segment (Big Cliff Dam to the community of Mehama) of the North Santiam River that the Salem District RMP found eligible for designation as a National Wild and Scenic River. The outstandingly remarkable values are Scenic, Recreational and Fish/Wildlife. A suitability study has not yet been completed for the segment.

The parcel currently receives unregulated off-highway vehicle use and target shooting. The noise disturbance and potential safety concerns associated with these incompatible uses negatively affect the experience of visitors using Fishermen's Bend.

The visual character of the parcel has been impacted by the partial removal of vegetation. Less modification has occurred around key visual features on the parcel including the river frontage along the North Santiam River and a small pond on the northern portion of the parcel.

Socio-economics: The property taxes currently paid by the landowner make up less than one-thousandth of a percent of the total property tax revenues for Marion County.

Riparian/Fisheries/Water Quality: The Offered Lands have 417 feet of river frontage (See Offered Lands Map) along the North Santiam River. A small stream runs through western part of the property and a small one-acre pond is present on the north side of the parcel. The North Santiam River is known to support federally listed populations of Upper Willamette River steelhead and Upper Willamette River chinook, as well as cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, dace and sculpins. The National Marine Fisheries Service was consulted with as part of the original exchange proposal and no issues associated with the acquisition of the parcel were identified.

Vegetation: Approximately 10 acres of native vegetation has been removed from the parcel to provide storage space for sawdust and gravel. Most of the native vegetation (i.e. conifers, hardwoods and shrubs) still present on the parcel is located along the North Santiam River, around the small pond and along the eastern and western boundaries. No Priority I (potential new invaders) or Priority II (new invaders) noxious weeds of concern were identified on the parcel. Scotch Broom, a Priority III (establish infestation species) is present on the parcel, but is not dominant.

Wildlife: The small pond on the parcel is suitable nesting and wintering habitat for several waterfowl species (i.e. hooded mergansers, wood ducks, and mallards). The stretch of river along this parcel and Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site is also a known nesting and brood rearing area for Harlequin Ducks, a Bureau sensitive species. The parcel provides habitat to a variety of migratory song birds (i.e. song sparrows, black-throated grey warbler, orange-crowned warbler and willow flycatcher, which is a Bureau sensitive species. Beaver sign has also been observed along the river shoreline. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service was consulted with as part of the original exchange proposal and no issues associated with the acquisition of the parcel were identified.

Soils/Minerals: The soils of the Offered Lands have highly variable textures, (silt loams to loams, gravelly sandy loams to silty clay loams named Fluvents/ Fluvaquents) which are normal soil variations found in floodplains and those areas next to rivers. No significant mineral resources were identified on the parcel.

Environmental Effects

This section of the environmental assessment considers the environmental consequences of implementation of the various alternatives. This section serves as the basis for the comparison of the alternatives described in the previous section.

These effects may be direct, indirect or cumulative and will be covered in the following section. Effects can be short-term or long term. Effects are direct when they occur in the same place and at the same time as the proposed action. Effects are indirect when they do not take place at the same time and place as the proposed action, but when they can be related to the proposed action.

Cumulative effects are the effects of the proposed action when considered with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. When added together, cumulative effects are those which independently do not pose a risk, but collectively may have some measurable effects. In addition, cumulative effects have been documented in the Salem District RMP FEIS and the Northwest Forest Plan. Standards and guidelines in the Salem District RMP, help ensure that significant cumulative effects beyond what was identified in this document would not occur. The resource values not identified in this section were those with no, or only negligible impacts, or those that are identified in the Environmental Elements Summary (See Appendix B).

Alternative A: Proposed Action

The transfer of title of the Offered Lands is the passing of the right of ownership of the real estate. No environmental effects occur as a result of the title transfer itself, however, actions that would likely occur after title transfers must be evaluated.

Recreation/Visuals: The purchase of the Offered Lands by the BLM expand the size of Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site. The acquisition would allow the BLM to better manage the parcel to minimize the incompatible uses (i.e. unregulated shooting and off-highway vehicle use) currently occurring on the parcel. The parcel would help buffer the more developed interior of the park. The purchase would also increase public land ownership along a segment of the North Santiam River identified as eligible for designation as a National Wild and Scenic River.

Indirect effects resulting from the BLM's management of the parcel includes the potential expansion the park's trail system or the development a year-round boat ramp. These and other opportunities would be evaluated as part of the master plan that would be developed for both the acquired parcel and Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site. Maintaining and enhancing public access and visual resources on the parcel would most likely be given greater long term emphasis than if the parcel remains in private ownership. The parcel also provides educational and volunteer opportunities for learning about the importance of riparian wetland habitat and participation in any proposed restoration efforts. No significant cumulative effects were identified.

Socio-economics: The purchase of the Offered Lands by the BLM would result in a slight decrease (less than one-thousandth of a percent) in property tax revenues collected in Marion County. Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments to Marion County would continue. No significant indirect or cumulative effects were identified.

Riparian/Fisheries/Water Quality: The purchase of the Offered Lands by the BLM would increase the amount of publicly managed riparian and wetland habitat along the North Santiam River, which has federally listed Upper Willamette River steelhead and chinook. The indirect effects of the proposed action, would be that the riparian habitat on the parcel would be managed in compliance with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives. The acquisition of the Offered Lands is not expected to prevent the attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives (See Appendix C). No significant cumulative effects were identified.

Vegetation: The purchase of the Offered Lands by the BLM would increase the amount of publicly managed riparian and wetland vegetation. Indirect effects that may result from BLM's management of the parcel include potential restoration efforts such as noxious weeds eradication and the replanting disturbed areas with native vegetation. No significant cumulative effects were identified.

Wildlife: The purchase of the Offered Lands by the BLM would increase the amount of publicly managed riparian, wetland and forest habitats that provide for a wide variety of both sensitive and non-sensitive waterfowl, migratory songbirds and mammals. Indirect effects that may result from management of the parcel by the BLM include educational activities for park visitors about the importance of wildlife and wildlife habitat. No significant cumulative effects were identified.

Soils/Minerals: There would be no direct effects of the purchase of the Offered lands by the BLM. The indirect effects would be the removal of the parcel from mineral exploration and collection, when the parcel is acquired. No significant cumulative effects were identified.

Alternative B: No Action

Under this alternative, the purchase of the Offered Lands by the BLM not take place and the parcel would remain in private ownership.

Recreation/Visuals: If the Offered Lands are not purchased by the BLM, incompatible uses occurring adjacent to the park would most likely continue until the parcel was sold. If the Offered lands are sold for private use, development would most likely range from residential to light industrial depending on what variances could be obtained from the parcel's current county zoning classification. Any subsequent development or use of the property may or may not be compatible with Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site. Public ownership would not increase along the segment of the North Santiam River that was found to be eligible for designation as a National Wild and Scenic River. Indirect effects would include the loss of the recreational and educational opportunities that the acquisition of the parcel might offer. No significant cumulative effects were identified.

Socio-economics: The direct effects of the parcel remaining in private ownership include the continuation of the payment of private property taxes to Marion County. No significant indirect or cumulative effects were identified.

Riparian/Fisheries/Water Quality: If the Offered Lands are not acquired by the BLM, the current owner has indicated that it would be sold to another party. The indirect effects would be the potential development of the parcel for residential or commercial activity. Under private ownership, the Offered Lands would most likely not be managed to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives. No significant cumulative effects were identified.

Vegetation: If the Offered Lands are not acquired by the BLM, the current owner has indicated that it would be sold to another party. The indirect effects would be the potential development of the parcel for residential or commercial activity. Restoration of native vegetation may or may not occur as part of that potential development. No significant cumulative effects were identified.

Wildlife: If the Offered Lands are not acquired by the BLM, the current owner has indicated that it would be sold to another party. The indirect effects would be the potential development of the parcel for residential or commercial activity. Under private ownership, the Offered Lands may or may not be managed to provide habitat to the wildlife species that currently use the parcel. No significant cumulative effects were identified.

Soils/Minerals: If the parcel remains in private ownership, it would not be removed from mineral entry. No significant cumulative effects were identified.

List of Preparers/Interdisciplinary Team Members

Recreation and Visual:	Laura Graves, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Wildlife Resources:	Jim England, Wildlife Biologist
Water Quality, Riparian, Soils:	John Barber, Hydrologist
Fisheries:	Dave Roberts, Fish Biologist
Botany/Vegetation:	Claire Hibler, Botanist
Realty:	Art Arroyo, Realty Specialist
Hazardous Materials:	Teresa Wright, Civil Engineer John Barber, Hydrologist

Appendix A: Public Notices and Comments

A copy of the Public Notices and the written comments received are included in this appendix. Since the Public Notices were issued and comments received, the proposed action has been changed from an exchange to direct purchase. Based on the comments received on the exchange, no new issues were identified as a result of changing the proposed action to a purchase.

Mill City

Independent Press

Submitting Office

Salem, OR.

Date Sent to WO-130

**PUBLIC
NOTICE****NOTICE OF EXCHANGE
PROPOSAL
PROPOSED EXCHANGE
OF LANDS IN MARION
COUNTY, OREGON**

UNITED STATES DE-
PARTMENT OF THE INTE-
RIOR, Bureau of Land Man-
agement, Salem District Of-
fice, Cascades Resource Area,
1717 Fabry Road S.E., Salem,
Oregon 97306.

Notice is hereby given that
the Bureau of Land Manage-
ment is considering a proposal
to exchange land and interest
in land pursuant to Section 206
of the Federal Land Policy and
Management Act of 1976 (43
U.S.C. 1716), as amended.
The exchange has been pro-
posed by Frank Trucking, Inc.,
Drawer 79, Mill City, Oregon
97360.

The following-described
public land is being considered
for transfer out of Federal own-
ership (the "Selected Land"):

Tsp. 9S; Rng. 3E; Sec. 5;
Subdivision Lot 3; Status PD;
Acres 46.22.

In exchange the United
States would acquire the fee
title to the following-described
land from the Frank Trucking,
Inc.:

Tsp. 9S.; Rng. 2E.; Sec.
25; Subdivision Portion of the
W1/2W1/2SE1/4 lying south-
erly of County Road No. 965;
Acres 17.00+/-.

Subject to valid existing
rights, the federal land identi-
fied above has been segregated
from appropriation under the
public land laws and mineral
laws for a period of five years
beginning June 25, 1999.

More detailed information

concerning the proposed ex-
change may be obtained from
Arthur Arroyo, Realty Special-
ist, Bureau of Land Manage-
ment, Salem District Office,
1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem,
Oregon 97306, (telephone:
(503) 375-5665).

Interested parties may sub-
mit comments concerning the
proposed exchange to the Cas-

cades Area Manager at the
above address. To be consid-
ered in the environmental as-
sessment of the proposed ex-
change, comments must be in
writing and postmarked or de-
livered by August 30, 1999.

Published in the *Mill City In-
dependent Press* on July 21, 28,
August 4, and 11, 1999.

BEEMER, JOHNSON, SMITH & CO.
PROFIT SHARING TRUST
516 SE Morrison, #630
Portland, OR 97214-2397
503-231-2800

July 21, 1999

RECEIVED
JUL 22 1999
Bureau of Land Management
Salem, Oregon

Mr. Robert B. Hershey
Bureau of Land Management
Salem District Office
1717 Fabry Road SE
Salem, OR 97306

RE: 2220 (082.6); OR 55115
Your letter of July 15, 1999

VIA FAX

Dear Mr. Hershey:

We are the owners of parcel 1400 east of and adjacent to the Fisherman's Bend 17 acres you propose to acquire from Frank Trucking, Inc.

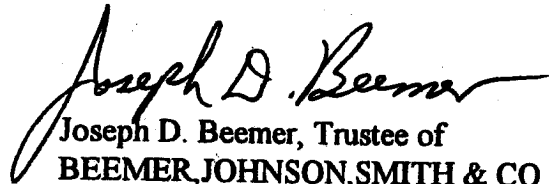
Your interest in expanding the BLM Fisherman's Bend Recreation Site pleases us immensely, as it is a very much needed improvement.

Further, subject to county approval, we are contemplating possible later development of our property as a campground for tents, camp trailers and RVs, with the intention to be open about 9 or 10 months per year. This could be a valuable adjunct to the BLM park. Our plans presently appear to depend on arrangements for a third party to purchase and develop the property, as we are a trust not qualified to proceed with development and operation.

To further our plans, we wish to acquire some river frontage for a possible boat ramp and other limited access; or at the very least a trail either by purchase, trade or easement. (Perhaps we could purchase a small portion at the South-east corner of the Frank property.)

Would you have any interest in cooperating with us? We would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,


Joseph D. Beemer, Trustee of
BEEMER, JOHNSON, SMITH & CO., PST

JDB/ccm



"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

P.O. Box 276 / Lyons, Oregon 97358
(503) 859-2121
Fax 503-859-2112

July 27, 1999

ref 3/2/99

RECEIVED

AUG - 2 1999

Bureau of Land Management
Salem, Oregon

Richard C. Prather
Cascade Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Salem District Office
1717 Fabry Rd SE
Salem, OR. 97306

Re: Notice of Exchange Proposal
Proposed Exchange of Land in Marion County, Oregon
Invitation to Comment

Dear Mr. Prather:

Please include the following comment in the case file.

Freres Lumber Co., Inc. has no objection to the Bureau of Land Management acquiring property owned by Frank Trucking, Inc. located adjacent to BLM Fisherman's Bend Recreation site.

Freres Lumber Co., Inc. strenuously objects to the selected public land for transfer out of Federal ownership to Frank Trucking, Inc.

Our company has approached the BLM requesting to exchange Little North Fork of the Santiam River properties owned by Freres for the selected land to be given to Frank.

We voiced our concerns regarding the selected land on multiple occasions to the Salem BLM office. The most recent direction Freres Lumber Co., Inc. received regarding land exchanges between Freres and the BLM was to wait until BLM completed an exchange with Port Blakely.

Freres Lumber Co., Inc. owns surrounding property to the north, south, east and west of the selected property for exchange to Frank.

We object to this exchange because the selected property is not adjacent to Frank owned and managed land.

Freres Lumber Co., Inc. is the logical best fit for exchange of the selected property. We can more effectively manage the selected property as part of a larger block of single ownership. A BLM environmental assessment should document the advantages of an exchange to Freres over Frank.

Freres can offer property with more riverfrontage, acreage, and better recreational opportunities. An exchange to Freres would maintain the land base under BLM jurisdiction, maintain the allowable sales quantity, and maintain the timber receipts to Marion County.

Freres Lumber Co., Inc. requests the BLM decline the exchange as proposed by Frank Trucking, Inc. Please notify us of any public meeting planned to explain the proposal.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Freres, Jr.
Vice President

RF:lt

Appendix B: Environmental Elements Summary

This table summarizes Environmental Elements that have been considered in developing the Alternatives, and identifies elements affected by the project and where the effects are described in the text.

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	EFFECT		SECTION ADDRESSED IN TEXT	SPECIALIST REVIEW
	YES	NO		
Air Quality		X	N/A, No Effect	JL 5/22/01
Areas of Critical Env. Concern		X	N/A, No Effect	JL 5/22/01
Cultural, Historic, Paleontological Resources		X	N/A, No Effect	FMP 5/22/01
Native American Religious Concerns		X	N/A, No Effect	JL 5/22/01
Special Status/Threatened or Endangered Plant Species		X	N/A, No Effect	CB 5/24/01
Special Status/Threatened or Endangered Animal Species		X	See Wildlife, Pages 8,9	JL 5/15/01
Prime Farm Lands		X	N/A, No Effect	JL 5/22/01
Flood Plains		X	N/A, No Effect	JL 5/22/01
Hazardous/Solid Waste		X	N/A, No Effect	JB 5/21/01
Drinking/Ground Water Quality		X	N/A, No Effect	JB 5/21/01
Water/Fisheries Resources	X		See Rip./Fish/Water, Pages 8,9	DAR 5/16/01
Riparian Habitat	X		See Rip./Fish/Water, Pages 8,9	JB 5/21/01
Wetlands	X		See Rip./Fish/Water, Pages 8,9	JB 5/21/01
Wild/Scenic Rivers		X	N/A, No Effect	JL 5/22/01
Wilderness		X	N/A, No Effect	JL 5/22/01
Adjacent Land Uses		X	N/A, No Effect	JL 5/22/01
Mineral Resources	X		See Minerals, Pages 8,9	JL 5/22/01
Recreation/Visual Resources	X		See Rec./Visuals, Pages 8,9	JL 5/22/01
Soil Resources		X	N/A, No Effect	JB 5/21/01
Vegetation Resources	X		See Vegetation, Pages 7,8	CB 5/25/01
Wildlife Resources	X		See Wildlife Pages 8,9	JL 5/15/01
Fuels Management		X	N/A, No Effect	JL 5/22/01

Appendix C: Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives

The Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP, Sept 1995), calls for the attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ASC) objectives. Each objective and the relationship to the proposed action is discussed below. In addition, any subsequent actions on the Offered Land if acquired, would also have to comply with the ASC objectives.

Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives

This section will address the effects of implementing the proposed action, described in this document, in relation to each of the ACS Objectives.

Forest Service and BLM-administered lands within the range of the spotted owl will be managed to:

Objective 1: Maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features to ensure protection of the aquatic systems to which species, populations and communities are uniquely adapted.

Project Discussion: The acquisition of the Offered Lands would help ensure that the parcels is managed in compliance with the ASC objectives. The riparian and wetland habitat on the parcel would be protected from potential residential or commercial development. This would contribute towards maintaining the complexity of aquatic systems on a small scale.

Objective 2: Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. Lateral, longitudinal, and drainage network connections include floodplains, wetlands, upslope areas, headwater tributaries, and intact refugia. These network connections must provide chemically and physically unobstructed routes to areas critical for fulfilling life history requirements of aquatic and riparian-dependent species.

Project Discussion: The acquisition of the Offered lands would add to the riparian and wetland habitat managed under ASC objectives. The addition of this habitat would contribute towards meeting this objective on a small scale.

Objective 3: Maintain and restore physical integrity of the aquatic system, including shorelines, banks, and bottom configurations.

Project Discussion: Similar to the discussion in Objectives 1 and 2, the acquisition the Offered Lands would most likely provide greater protection to the shoreline and banks of the parcel than might otherwise be provided under private ownership or development.

Objective 4: Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems. Water quality must remain within the range that maintains the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of the system and the benefits survival, growth, reproduction, and migration of individuals composing aquatic and riparian communities.

Project Discussion: As discussed above, the acquisition of the Offered Lands would increase the amount of riparian and wetland habitat under ASC objectives and contribute toward meeting this objective on a small scale.

Objective 5: Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystems evolved. Elements of sediment regime include timing, volume, rate, and character of sediment input, storage and transport.

Project Discussion: No changes in the sediment regime are expected as a result of the acquisition of the Offered Lands, so the proposed action should not prevent the attainment of this objective.

Objective 6: Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing. The timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows must be protected.

Project Discussion: No changes in the in-stream flow regimes are expected as a result of the acquisition of the Offered Lands, so the proposed action should not prevent the attainment of this objective.

Objective 7: Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.

Project Discussion: Floodplain inundation would not be affected by the acquisition of the Offered Lands, so the proposed action should not prevent the attainment of this objective.

Objective 8: Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands to provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, appropriate rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration and to supply amounts and distributions of coarse woody debris sufficient to sustain physical complexity and stability.

Project Discussion: The acquisition of the Offered Lands, provides additional restoration opportunities for riparian and wetland habitats on the parcel that could contribute to enhancing this objective on a small scale.

Objective 9: Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian-dependent species.

Project Discussion: The acquisition of the Offered Lands, provides additional restoration opportunities for riparian and wetland habitats on the parcel that help support riparian-dependent species. This could contribute to enhancing this objective on a small scale.